AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application,

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method, in a cellular communication system, for automatic selection of automatically selecting an encryption algorithm for use in a base transceiver station in a cellular communication system, said method comprising the steps of:

extracting, from network information, a region code representative of the geographic jurisdiction in which the base transceiver station resides;

searching an encryption algorithm database for a code an encryption algorithm matching the region code, said encryption algorithm database storing a plurality of encryption algorithms; and

if a match is found, then applying an selecting the encryption algorithm associated with from the encryption algorithm database that matches the region code in the encryption database.

2. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of extracting, from network information, a region code representative of the geographic jurisdiction in which the base transceiver station resides comprises:

retrieving the region code from system information stored in a memory module.

3. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 1, wherein:

the network information is stored in a memory associated with a first network element and the encryption algorithm database is stored in a second network element.

4. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:

encrypting information using the selected encryption algorithm.

5.   (Currently Amended) A method, ~~in a cellular communication network for automatic selection~~ of <u>automatically selecting</u> an encryption algorithm for use in one or more base transceiver stations located in a cell <u>in a cellular communication network,</u> <u>said method</u> comprising the steps of:

receiving, at a base station controller, a signal indicating that ~~the~~ <u>a</u> base transceiver station is being initialized;

in response to the signal, retrieving a mobile country code from system information stored in a memory associated with the base station controller;

retrieving, from a database stored in a memory associated with the base station controller, an encryption algorithm selection code associated with the mobile country code;

transmitting the encryption algorithm selection code to ~~at least one~~ <u>the</u> base transceiver station ~~in the cell~~ <u>being initialized</u>; <u>and</u>

selecting <u>from a plurality of encryption algorithms</u>[[,]] at the base transceiver station, an encryption algorithm corresponding to the encryption algorithm selection code for use when communicating between the base transceiver station and a remote terminal.

6.   (Currently Amended) [[A]] <u>The</u> method according to claim 5, further comprising the step of:

encrypting information using the selected encryption algorithm.

7.   (Currently Amended) A method, ~~in a cellular communication network that operates in accordance with GSM standards, for automatic selection~~ of <u>automatically</u> <u>selecting</u> an encryption algorithm for use in one or more base transceiver stations located in a cell <u>in a cellular communication network that operates in accordance with</u> <u>GSM standards, said method</u> comprising the steps of:

receiving, at a mobile services switching center, a signal indicating that ~~the~~ <u>a</u> base transceiver station is being initialized;

in response to the signal, retrieving a mobile country code from system information stored in a memory associated with the mobile services switching center;

retrieving, from a database stored in a memory associated with the mobile services switching center, an encryption algorithm selection code associated with the mobile country code;

transmitting the encryption algorithm selection code to ~~at least one~~ the base transceiver station ~~in the cell~~ being initialized; and

selecting from a plurality of encryption algorithms[[,]] at the base transceiver station, an encryption algorithm corresponding to the encryption algorithm selection code for use when communicating between the base transceiver station and a remote terminal.

8.   (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 7, wherein the step of transmitting the encryption algorithm to ~~at least one~~ the base transceiver station comprises:

transmitting the encryption algorithm from [[a]] the mobile services switching center to a base station controller; and

transmitting the encryption algorithm from [[a]] the base station controller to [[a]] the base transceiver station.

9.   (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 7, further comprising the step of:

encrypting information using the selected encryption algorithm.

10.   (Currently Amended) A network node for use in a cellular communication network, comprising:

~~a communication interface;~~

a processor;

a memory module, operatively associated with the processor;

operating software[[,]] residing in the memory module, ~~comprising~~ said software including a country code that indicates the country in which the base station controller resides; and

an encryption algorithm database stored in the memory module, the encryption algorithm database including codes representative of a plurality of specific geographic regions and a plurality of encryption algorithm codes indicating encryption algorithms authorized in ~~the~~ each of the plurality of geographic ~~region~~ regions.

11. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The network node according to claim 10, wherein:

the network node comprises a base transceiver station.

12. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The network node according to claim 10, wherein:

the network node comprises a base station controller.

13. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The network node according to claim 10, wherein:

the network node comprises a mobile services switching center.

14. (Currently Amended) A cellular communication network, comprising:
a network node comprising:

a memory module for storing operating software, the operating software including a country code indicating the country in which the base station controller resides, and an encryption algorithm database including a plurality of country codes and a plurality of associated codes indicating authorized encryption algorithms[[,]]; and

a processor for retrieving the country code from the operating system software, searching the encryption algorithm database for an encryption algorithm code associated with the country code, and transmitting a signal representative of the encryption algorithm code to the base transceiver station; and

a base transceiver station including an encryption module adapted to select one of at least two different encryption algorithms in response to the signal received from the base station controller.

15. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The cellular communication network according to claim 14, wherein:

the network node comprises a base transceiver station.

16. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The cellular communication network according to claim 14, wherein:

the network node comprises a base station controller.

17. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The cellular communication network according to claim 14, wherein:

the network node comprises a mobile services switching center.